WING J 376A

(6)

HIS MAJESTIES REASONS For withdrawing Himself from ROCHESTER,

---

VVrit with His Own Hand, and ordered by Him to be Publiſhed.

DUBLIN,

Printed by *Andrew Crook* on *Ormond-Key* and *Samuel Helſham* at the *Colledge-Arms* in Caſtle-ſtreet, Aſſigns of *Benj. Tooke* Printer to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty.
MDCLXXXVIII.

HIS

MAJESTIES

REASONS

For withdrawing Himself from

ROCHESTER,

VVrit with His Own Hand, and ordered by Him to be Published.

His Majeſties *Reaſons for withdrawing Himſelf*, &c.

THe World cannot wonder at my withdrawing my ſelf now the ſecond time, I might have expected ſomewhat better uſage, after what I writ to the Prince of *Orange* by my Lord *Feverſham*, and the inſtructions I gave him; but inſtead of an Anſwer, ſuch as I might have hoped for, what was I to expect after the uſage I received by the making the ſaid Earl of *Feverſham* priſoner againſt the practice and law of Nations, the ſending his own Guard at eleven at night to take poſſeſſion of the Poſts at *Whitehall* without advertiſing me in the leaſt manner of it; the ſending to me at one of the Clock after midnight when I was in Bed, a kind of an Order by three Lords to be gone out of my own Palace before 12 that ſame morning; after all this, how could I hope to be ſafe ſo long as I was in the power of one who had not only done thus to me, and invaded my Kingdoms without any juſt occaſion given him for it, but that did by his firſt Declaration lay the greateſt aſperſion on me that malice could invent in that Clauſe of it which concerns my Son. I appeal to all that know me, (nay even to himſelf) that neither he nor they can believe me in the leaſt capable of ſo unnatural a villany, nor of ſo little common ſenſe to be impoſed on, in a thing of ſuch a nature as that: What had I then to expect from one, who by all arts hath taken ſuch pains to make me appear as black as Hell to my own people, as well as to all

the World beſide. What effect that hath had at home, all mankind have ſeen by ſo general a defection in my Army as well as in the Nation amongſt all ſorts of people.

I was Born free, and deſire to continue ſo, and though I have ventured my life very frankly on ſeveral occaſions for the good and honour of my Countrey, and am as free to do it again, and which I hope I ſhall yet do as old as I am, to redeem it from the ſlavery it's like to fall under; yet I think it not convenient to expoſe my ſelf to be ſecured, and ſo cannot be at liberty to effect it; and for that reaſon do withdraw, but ſo as to be within call whenſoever the Nations eyes ſhall be opened, ſo as to ſee how they have been abuſed and impoſed upon, by the ſpecious pretences of Religion and Property. I hope it will pleaſe God to touch their hearts out of his infinite mercy, and to make them ſenſible of the ill condition they are in, and bring them to ſuch a temper that a Legal Parliament may be called; and that amongſt other things which may be neceſſary to be done, they will agree to Liberty of Conſcience for all Proteſtant Diſſenters; and that thoſe of my own perſwaſion may be ſo far conſidered, and have ſuch a ſhare of it, as that they may live peaceably and quietly as Engliſh men and Chriſtians ought to do, and not be obliged to tranſport themſelves, which would be very grievous, eſpecially to ſuch as love their own Countrey. And I appeal to all men who are conſidering men, and have had experience whether any thing can make this Nation ſo great and flouriſhing as Liberty of Conſcience; ſome of our Neighbours dread it. I could add much more to confirm all I ſaid, but now is not the proper time.

Rocheſter, December, the 22*th*.